

Election '13: Two vie for state Court of Appeals post

The court's Division 3, District 2 covers several Southeast Washington counties

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Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield county voters will be among other Southeast Washington counties to elect a Position 1 judge for the Washington State Court of Appeals, Division 3, District 2.

Here is a look at the two candidates, George Fearing and John Gary Metro, based on information gleaned from the State of Washington Voter's Pamphlet for the Nov. 5 General Election.

George Fearing

Legal/judicial experience: Incumbent; appointed to current position on the Court of Appeals bench in Spokane earlier this year. Attorney with Leavy, Schultz, Davis & Fearing, PS in Kennewick for 30 years. Served on the Washington State Bar Association Disciplinary Board.

Other professional experience: Taught continuing legal education seminars; served as pro-bono counsel to ARC of Tri-Cities, numerous religious organizations.

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Washington Law School; Bachelors/Business Administration, Magna cum laude, Walla Walla College.

Community service: President of the Walla Walla University Alumni Association; Rotarian; Sabbath school teacher and church board member; Tri-City Academy Board.

Statement: The son of a minister and a nurse, Fearing's parents instilled in him an ethic of hard work and service to others. He understands that a judge does not create law, but listens intently and patiently to each side in a case and carefully applies the established law to the case.

Fearing has argued before the Court of Appeals and state Supreme Court.

John Gary Metro

Legal/Judicial Experience: Sole practitioner with offices in Kennewick and Walla Walla.

Other professional experience: Former research assistant to Professor Joseph Bankman, Stanford University Law School.

Education: Graduate of Reed College, Portland, Ore. Law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law.

Community service: Past member of the board of directors of the Walla Walla County Red Cross.

Statement: “I am running for judge because I believe in judicial restraint. If I am elected, I will interpret the laws enacted by the Legislature in a manner which is consistent with the laws’ plain meaning. I will work to preserve and protect the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Washington. I will work to preserve the delicate balance inherent in our federalist system of government.”